



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLINTON, ROCKY MOUNT, GRAVOIS MILLS RESIDENTS INDICTED FOR ILLEGALLY POSSESSING FIREARMS

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three persons were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally being in possession of firearms.

* **Vita Pauline Hurt**, 50, of Clinton, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Jefferson City.

Today's indictment alleges that **Hurt** was in possession of a loaded Excam .38-caliber derringer on Feb. 6, 2005, in Morgan County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Hurt** has 2002 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance and possession of pseudoephedrine with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine, both in Henry County, Mo.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lawrence E. Miller. It was investigated by the Morgan County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Charles Peter Schild, Jr.**, 35, of Rocky Mount, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Jefferson City.

Today's indictment alleges that **Schild** was in possession of a loaded Winchester .22-caliber rifle on June 12, 2004, in Morgan County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Schild** has 1997 criminal felony convictions for burglary and violation of a protective order, both in Beadle County, S. D., and a 1995 criminal felony conviction for felony grand theft in Davison County, S. D.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lawrence E. Miller. It was investigated by the Morgan County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

* **David Michael Hilgar**, 19, of Gravois Mills, Mo., was charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Jefferson City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Hilgar** was in possession of a Haskell .45-caliber pistol on Nov. 5, 2004, in Morgan County. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Hilgar** has 2004 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance with the intent to distribute, both in Morgan County.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Hilgar** was an unlawful user of methamphetamine while he was in possession of a loaded Haskell .45-caliber pistol. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for an unlawful user of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lawrence E. Miller. It was investigated by the Morgan County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in these indictments are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow